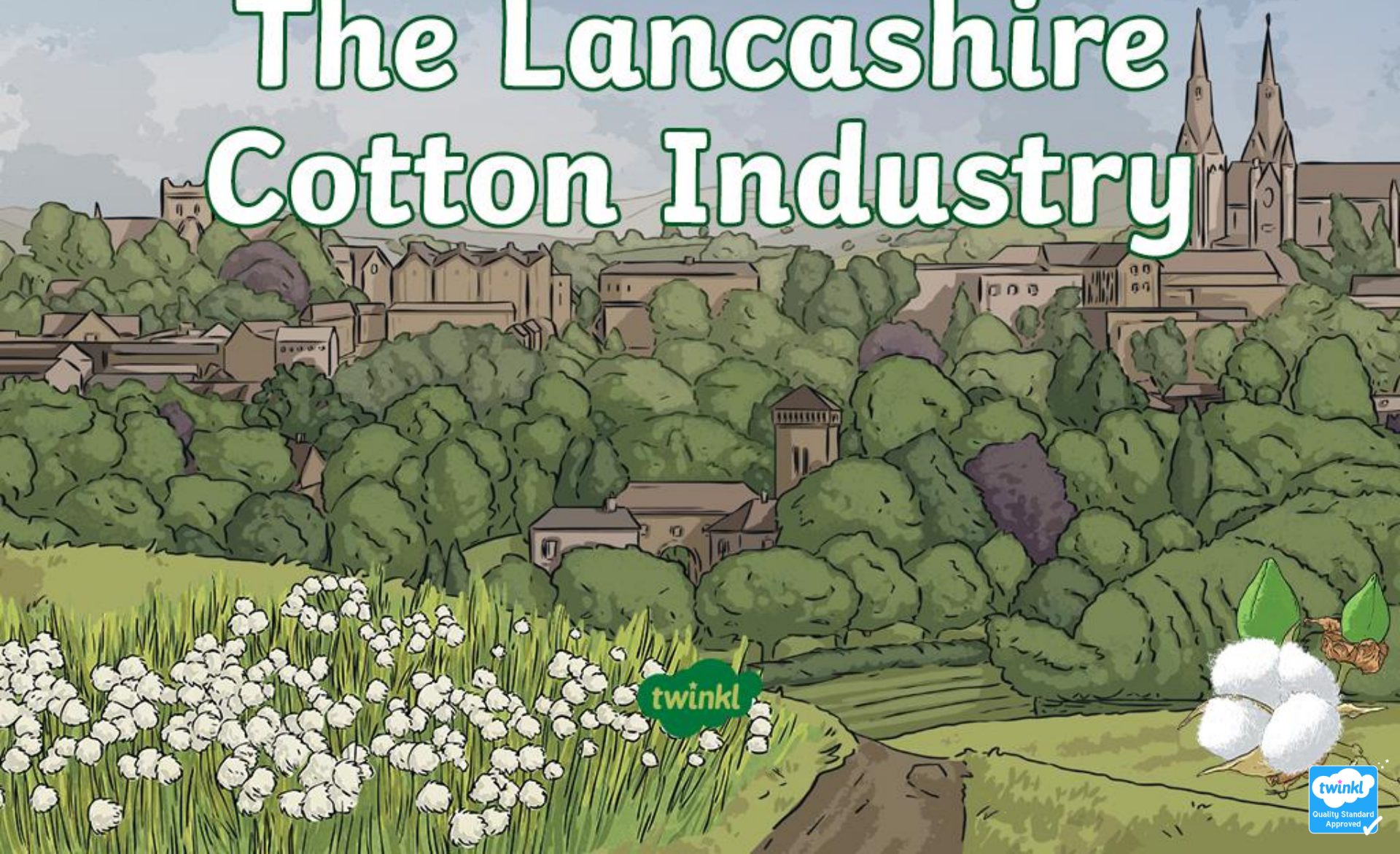


All About

The Lancashire Cotton Industry



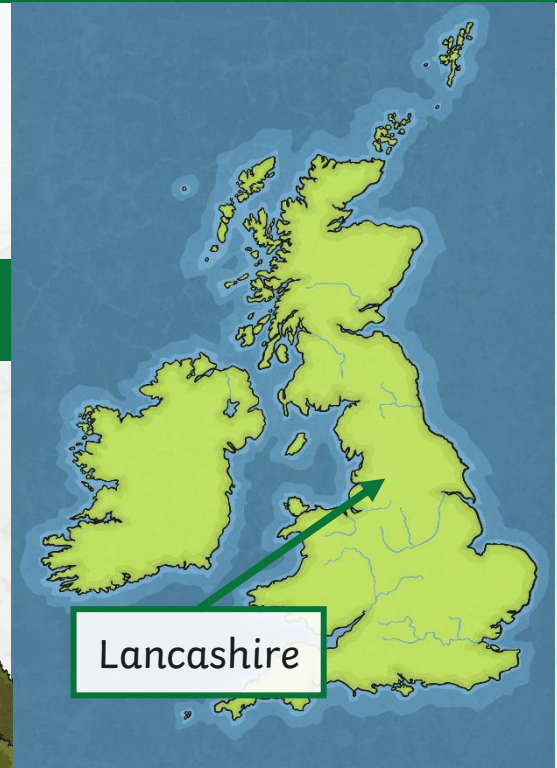
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Where Is Lancashire?

Lancashire is a county in the north-west of England. It has two cities, Preston and Lancaster. The popular holiday destination of Blackpool is in Lancashire.

People from Lancashire are called Lancastrians.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Lancashire was a major producer of cotton goods. This was known as the Lancashire cotton industry.



Did You Know?

The Duke of Lancaster is usually known by a different name: Queen Elizabeth II!

What Is Cotton?



Cotton taken from the plant is woven and spun into fabric which is then used for lots of different things, such as denim (for jeans), t-shirts, socks, tents, coffee filters, nappies and cotton buds.



Spinning Cotton



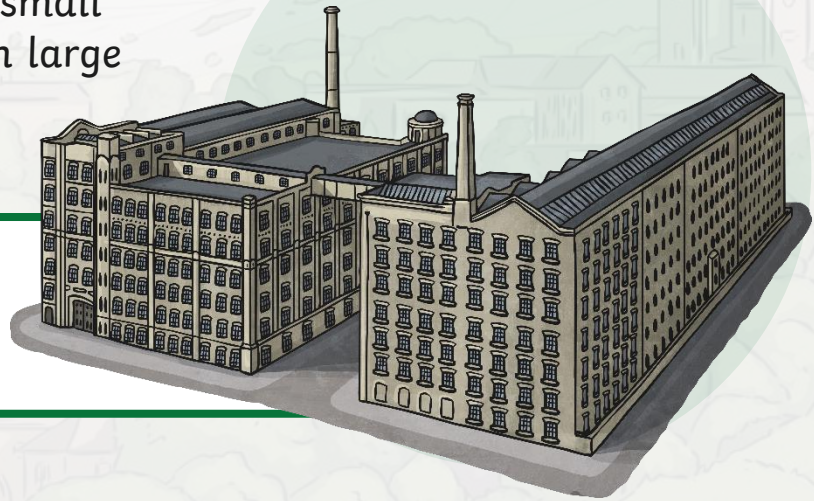
Across Lancashire, many people were part of the cotton cottage industry.

Cotton was turned into cloth using a handloom.

The Industrial Revolution

From around 1760, Britain experienced a huge change, known as the Industrial Revolution. Many British people went from living in small villages, working on the land, to living in large cities, working in factories.

It was a time of inventions, such as the steam engine. Britain became known as 'the workshop of the world'.



Talk about it

How do you think life changed for people who moved from the countryside to large cities?

The Lancashire Cotton Industry

In Lancashire and the surrounding areas, lots of cotton factories (sometimes called mills) were built. These factories turned raw cotton (the white fluffy fibre) into material that could be used to make clothes and other things.

In the 1790s, cotton goods made up over 15% of Britain's exports (goods that are sold abroad) and within ten years, this had grown to over 42%. Cotton factory owners became very rich. A saying was invented 'cotton is king'. The cotton industry grew throughout the 19th century and by 1860, there were over 2000 cotton mills in the Lancashire region, with nearly 500 000 people working in them.



Life in a Cotton Mill

Working days were long, with most
weavers, spinning and
doffing, for 13 hours. Despite these long
hours, pay was poor.

There were very few safety measures
in place and many workers suffered
serious injuries while operating
machinery.



Talk about it

What time do you get up in the morning? How long do you spend working?

Children

Because they were poor families children were often given the job of a 'piece' of this or that. This involved crawling under their machines, while they were still going, to collect and collect dropped material. This was extremely dangerous. Children usually worked the same high and bags as adults. They had no chance to get fresh air or receive education. death.



Talk about it

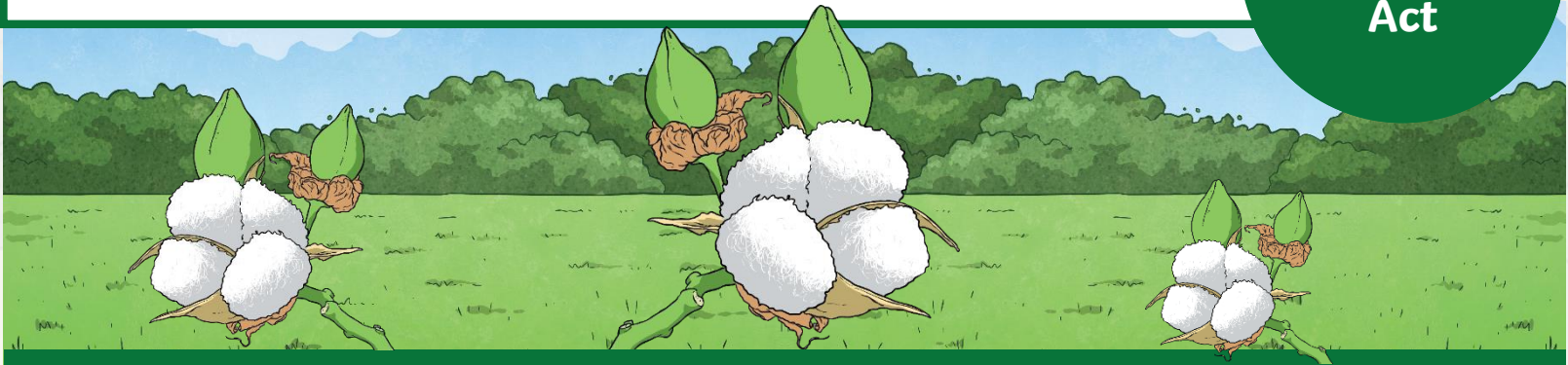
What do you want to do for a job when you are an adult?

Improvements

During the 19th century, people began to be aware of the conditions in cotton mills and other factories. Several laws were passed to help improve things including:

This banned the employment of children in factories under 10 years old.

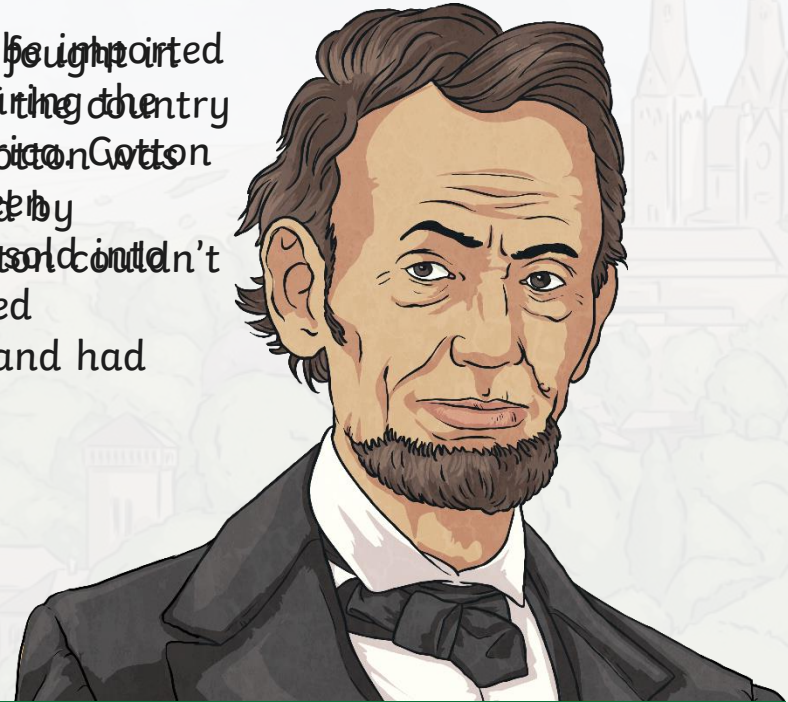
**1874
Factory
Act**



These laws were difficult to enforce and not every factory owner stuck to them. Life for factory workers remained hard.

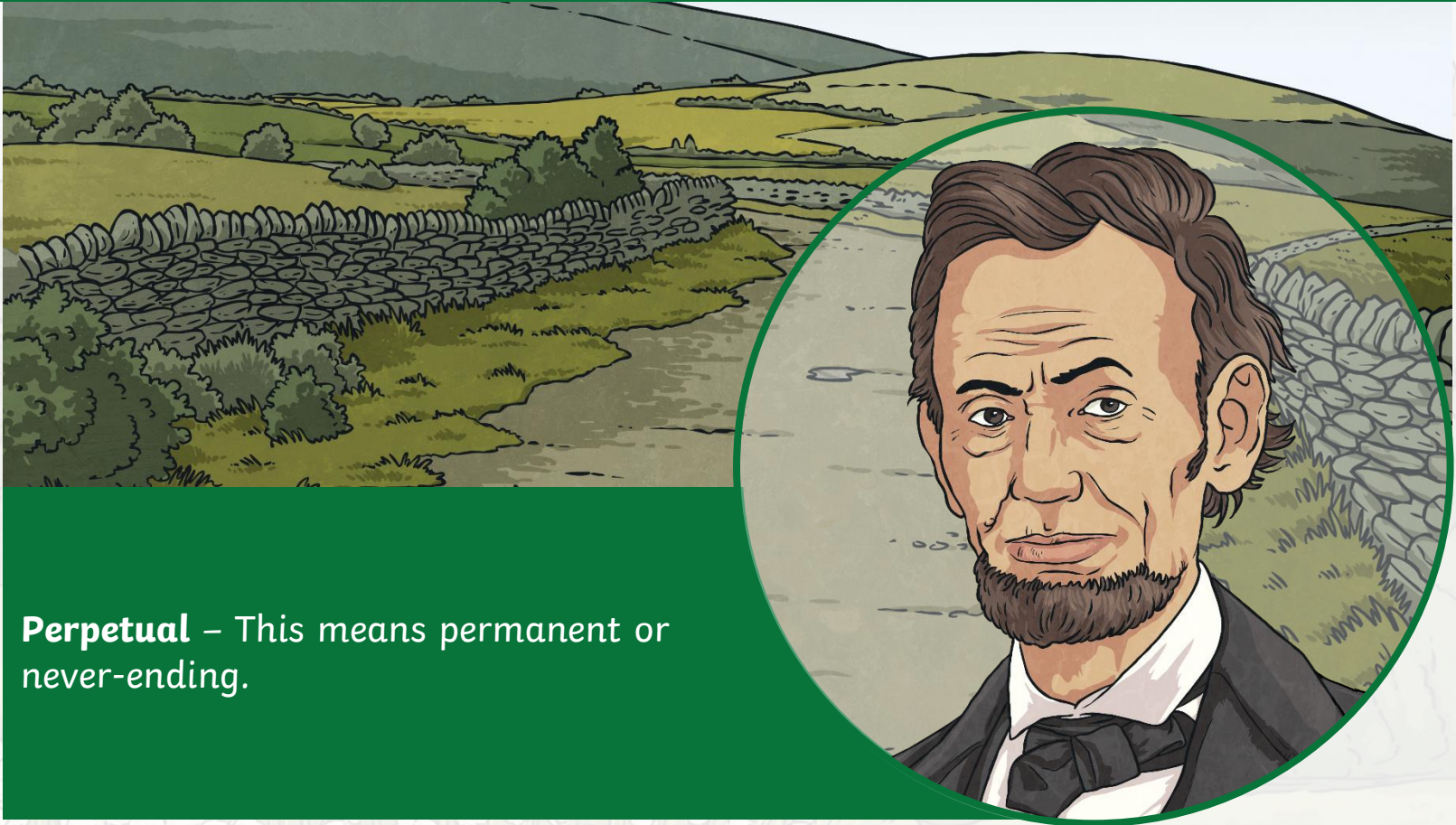
The Lancashire Cotton Famine

The American Civil War (1861-1865) led to a significant drop in cotton exports from the United States. The cotton industry in Lancashire was heavily dependent on cotton from the United States. When the war started, the cotton supply was cut off. This led to a severe shortage of cotton in Lancashire. Many mill workers lost their jobs. In the time before unemployment benefits, many families faced starvation and ended up in the workhouse.



With less cotton being imported to Britain, many mill workers lost their jobs. In the time before unemployment benefits, many families faced starvation and ended up in the workhouse.

Support for Lincoln



Perpetual – This means permanent or never-ending.

The Decline of the Lancashire Cotton Industry

In 1912, Britain produced over 7 billion metres of cotton cloth.



The decline of the cotton industry started during the First World War (1914 – 1918). At this time, British cloth couldn't be sold overseas so many countries built their own cotton factories. By the 1960s, around one Lancashire cotton mill closed each week. The 1980s saw the end of the Lancashire cotton industry.

Stagville Plantation

Historic Stagville preserves a small fraction of the plantation holdings of the Bennehan-Cameron families. From 1771 to 1865, the Bennehan and Cameron families profited from the forced labour of enslaved Africans and African Americans on this land. By the 1860s, the Bennehan-Cameron family controlled over 30,000 acres of land and enslaved over 900 people. The Stagville farm and quarters was one of the oldest sections of this enormous plantation complex. Today Stagville is a historic site dedicated to interpreting the lives, culture, and labours of enslaved people on the Bennehan-Cameron plantations. Enslaved workers labored at crafts such as coopering, milling, and ironworking, but primarily agriculture—producing corn, wheat and other grains, hogs, tobacco, and some cotton, flax, and wool.

The site has been preserved as a state historic site since 1978, including a Bennehan family plantation house (c. 1787-1799), four slave dwellings at Horton Grove (c. 1851), and a massive timber-framed barn (c. 1860). Most of the historic landscape features are gone, but the site include the foundation of an enslaved family's house, a Bennehan family cemetery, and the foundation of a kitchen building.

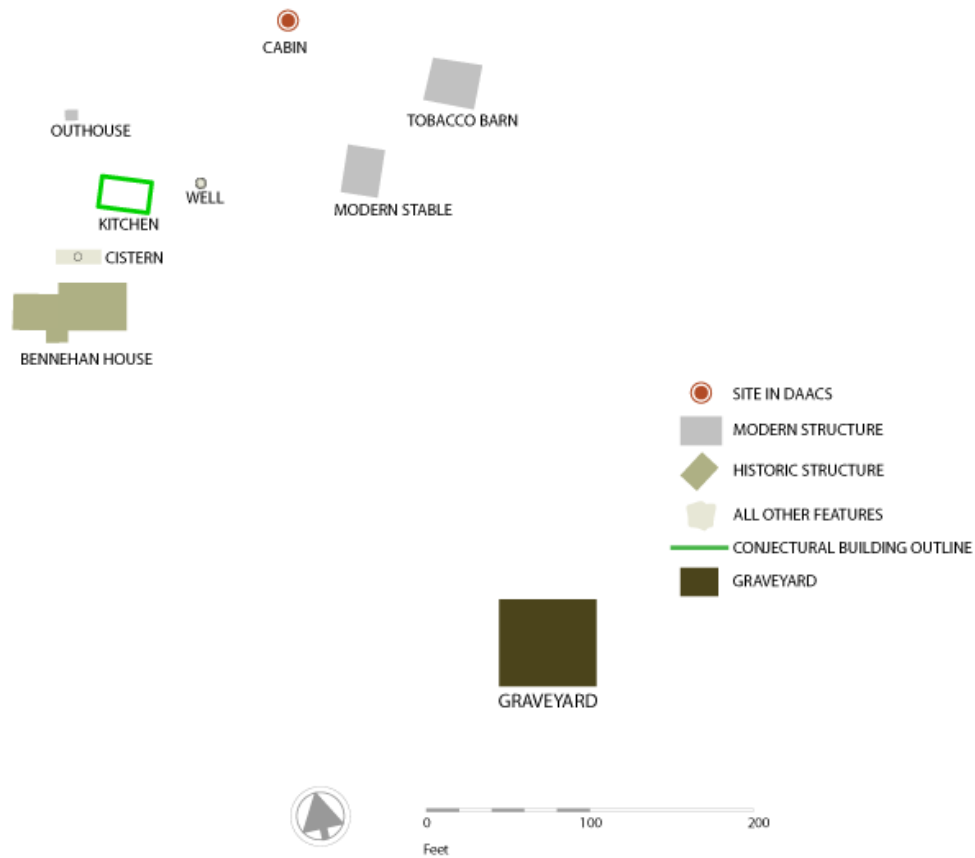
Plantation house



Slave dwellings



Map





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